



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 18, 2002, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: November 17, 2002  
CWP Vol 02 No 36 WA-CW4602

## Christmas Tree Harvest Began Under Nearly Ideal Conditions Rain Welcomed Across State With More Moisture Needed

### Field Crops

Conditions across eastern Washington improved with the recent rain, but additional moisture is needed. In Asotin and Garfield Counties, winter wheat was small and had moisture stress, leaving it vulnerable to winter damage and diseases. Winter kill was reported in a few areas of winter wheat in Whitman County during the cold conditions of early November; however, these reports appeared to have impacted limited acreage. In the west, rainy conditions and much warmer temperatures provided a welcome relief to the frigid temperatures of two weeks ago. Christmas tree growers began tree harvest under nearly ideal harvest conditions.

### Livestock

Rain received this week was a little late to generate much fall pasture but should be enough to get things off to a good start next spring. Livestock operations continued to provide supplemental feed due to the poor fall grazing conditions.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Initial reports from nurserymen in western Washington suggested that the extremely cold temperatures, which occurred two weeks ago, resulted in some damage to both conifer seedlings and containerized ornamental plant material where frost protection was not available. Commercial dahlia growers continued lifting, washing, and cutting tubers. Commercial dahlia growers continued digging and sorting corms. Pruning began in some blocks of fruit trees in Benton County, while processing carrot harvest continued in Grant County.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.4
Last Week	5.1

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	11	45	44	0
Subsoil	8	53	39	0
Irrigation Water	0	1	99	0
Hay & Roughage	0	14	86	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Emerged	95	93	99	98
Potatoes Harvested	99	99	100	100
Corn Harvested	68	50	66	73

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	7	93	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** Rainy conditions and much warmer temperatures provided a welcome relief to the frigid temperatures of two weeks ago. Christmas tree growers began tree harvest under nearly ideal harvest conditions (lots of rain). Commercial dahlia growers continued lifting, washing, and cutting tubers. Commercial gladiola growers continued digging and sorting corms. Initial reports from ag producers indicated that there was little damage from the frigid temperatures--primarily because they had prepared for it. The warmer temperatures and rain brought normal fall weather conditions back to the county this past week. Most native deciduous trees have now lost their leaves, resulting in a barren, wintry look across the rural landscape.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis:** Fall rains finally arrived in a large enough quantity to be considered real rain. The rain was a little late to generate much fall pasture but should be enough to get things off to a good start next spring.

**Pierce/South King:** High winds and heavy rain was received over the weekend. There have been no reports of crop damage.

**Thurston:** Initial reports from nurserymen suggested that the extremely cold temperatures, which occurred two weeks ago, resulted in some damage to both conifer seedlings and containerized ornamental plant material where frost protection was not available. The nurserymen felt that damage from temperatures reaching a chilling 12 degrees F. was more prevalent due to the unseasonably warm temperatures which prevented plants from sufficiently hardening off. In addition, sunny afternoons with temperatures reaching 60 degrees, exacerbated conditions for plant cell injury. At this time, it is premature to say to what extent plants were damaged. The consensus among nurserymen however, is that it will be heaviest on those plants with no frost protection. Rain showers throughout the week have increased stream flow on major rivers and brought an end to dry conditions.

## Central

**Benton:** Recent rain helped improve soil moisture status. Pruning began in some blocks of fruit trees.

**Grant:** Limited rainfall received was beneficial for dryland and irrigated winter wheat. Processing carrot harvest continued.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures were warmer than normal, ranging from 2 to 9 degrees above normal with .04 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Precipitation was enough to maintain current conditions of winter wheat, but more precipitation is needed to improve surface moisture, subsoil moisture, and winter wheat conditions.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Showers went through the area again with minimal accumulations. Windy weather followed the showers and dried most of the moisture that was received. Crops and pastures were still in need of rain. Temperatures were mild and more winter wheat was emerging slowly. The winter wheat was small and had moisture stress, leaving it vulnerable to winter damage and diseases.

**Lincoln:** Precipitation helped to maintain topsoil and subsoil moisture, but more rain is needed to improve current conditions for the winter wheat.

**Whitman:** Conditions improved with the recent rain, but additional moisture is needed. Winter kill was reported in a few areas of winter wheat during the cold conditions of early November; however, these reports appeared to have impacted limited acreage.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** November rains ranged from just under an inch in the western part of the county to 1.7" in the eastern part of the county. Temperatures remained above normal with storms bringing passing showers. Growers hope the warmer temperatures will help the emerging winter wheat.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**November 18, 2002**

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	41	57	50	7	6	-1	0	0	1.08	-0.11	5	3.24	-4.86	40	26
Everett	42	58	50	6	7	0	0	0	1.09	-0.07	5	3.53	-4.35	45	28
Hoquiam	39	57	49	3	8	1	0	0	2.35	-0.07	7	6.63	-8.33	44	28
Kelso	37	57	50	6	11	4	0	0	1.08	-0.49	6	3.04	-6.66	31	21
Olympia	33	57	48	6	5	-2	0	0	1.47	-0.46	5	3.61	-7.29	33	24
Seattle-Tacoma	41	57	50	5	7	0	0	0	1.63	0.25	5	4.11	-4.12	50	21
Shelton	35	57	48	4	2	-5	0	0	2.81	0.37	6	4.91	-8.73	36	19
Tacoma	34	61	49	6	5	-2	0	0	1.21	-0.22	3	2.74	-5.69	33	19
Vancouver	37	60	50	6	9	2	0	0	0.80	-0.59	5	3.19	-5.07	39	19
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	27	53	42	6	0	-1	0	0	0.15	-0.13	3	0.76	-0.90	46	11
Omak	30	55	41	8	0	0	0	0	0.34	-0.02	2	1.08	-1.42	43	9
Stampede Pass	29	40	36	7	0	0	0	0	2.78	-0.11	6	5.33	-11.06	33	23
Wenatchee	32	57	43	5	0	-6	0	0	0.21	-0.07	5	1.11	-0.33	77	13
Yakima AP	26	61	43	4	0	-7	0	0	0.04	-0.19	1	0.56	-0.82	41	5
NORTHEAST															
Colville	31	54	42	7	0	0	0	0	0.74	0.11	3	2.16	-1.59	58	10
Deer Park	25	49	38	3	0	0	0	0	0.63	0.02	4	2.88	-0.43	87	19
Spokane AP	30	50	41	6	0	0	0	0	0.28	-0.22	2	2.13	-0.70	75	13
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	29	58	42	4	0	-3	0	0	0.14	-0.09	2	0.46	-0.85	35	6
Moses Lake	29	57	44	6	0	-3	0	0	0.16	-0.07	3	0.51	-0.80	39	7
Quincy	28	57	44	6	0	-7	0	0	0.23	-0.05	2	0.61	-0.89	41	7
Ritzville	31	53	43	6	0	-6	0	0	0.23	-0.14	3	1.14	-1.04	52	11
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	29	57	45	3	0	-7	0	0	0.21	0.00	3	0.62	-0.61	50	8
Pasco	27	62	49	7	14	7	0	0	0.11	-0.14	2	0.42	-1.02	29	8
Pullman	33	53	43	6	0	-5	0	0	0.22	-0.41	4	1.87	-1.96	49	17
Whitman Mission	28	62	47	6	8	1	0	0	0.37	-0.05	4	1.28	-1.40	48	15
IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	30	52	42	4	0	0	0	0	0.77	-0.02	3	3.08	-1.46	68	12
Lewiston ID	34	59	48	7	2	-2	0	0	0.27	-0.01	4	1.71	-0.60	74	18

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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